

# *Our Stories*

# *Deluxe Workshop*

Our Stories Writer:

Jason Jones

Instructors:

Alexis E Santi

# Deluxe Workshop Syllabus

## Overview:

At *Our Stories* we believe in the process of writing, not so much in the immediacy of success of the final product but the process that it takes to achieve the final product through the dedication of rewriting. An *Our Stories Writer* communes with this process and their success is through the commitment that it takes to work through the redrafting of their story. The weight of a writer is not what they do with a single draft but what they accomplish after five or ten drafts and they must have the courage and desire to reach that end.

William Faulkner, author of “The Sound and the Fury” had this to say about the writing process:

*At one time I thought the most important thing was talent. I think now that the young man or the young woman must possess or teach himself, training himself, in infinite patience, which is to try and to try until it comes right. He must train himself in ruthless intolerance--that is to throw away anything that is false no matter how much he might love that page or that paragraph. The most important thing is insight, that is to be--curiosity--to wonder, to mull, and to muse why it is that man does what he does, and if you have that, then I don't think the talent makes much difference, whether you've got it or not.*



## Expectations:

The Our Stories Workshop series is committed to developing stories through the workshop mode. Your commitment must be towards putting the time and effort into work that you are proud of yet are willing to develop and be open to rethinking your story over three to eight weeks. It is not enough to submit great work—you must be committed to working with multiple drafts of your writing.

## Deluxe Workshops:

- ✓ You must have three stories that you would like to work with.
- ✓ Work through three drafts of every story
- ✓ Communicate with your instructor.
- ✓ Participate in videoconferences via Skype.
- ✓ Undertake a final project and revise three short stories by the end of week 7.

## *Notes on the schedule*

The basic principle behind the schedule is that every Friday a draft of a story is sent to your instructor and by the following Wednesday your instructor sends it back. By Monday afternoon after their clarification email is sent, the writer should be ready to move onto the next story.

### *Clarification Emails*

While our workshops are an open dialogue between instructor and author of the story, Clarification Emails are a guide to utilize time appropriately for each story. In Deluxe Workshops these time slot suggestions for videoconferences. The goal is that after feedback is given after a story should be digested first, read and pondered and then—naturally—questions will arise and more details are called for. If a review needs clarification then it is highly suggested that the author send an email to the instructor *during* the week that a story is being workshopped while the work is pertinent, fresh and “alive” not only for the instructor’s sake but for the sake of the author who can immediately turn this instruction into their next rewrite.

### *Video Conferencing*

Video conferencing occurs at mutually agreeable times between the author and the short story writer. The total hours spent video conferencing is three hours. It is suggested that the videoconferences have at least half an hour during the first week and an hour to discuss the outcome of the final project.

## Schedule

Date	Assignment	Completion
<b>Week 1</b>		
Friday	1 <sup>st</sup> & 2 <sup>nd</sup> stories are handed in by author <u>And 1 copy of your essay should be sent to Alexis E Santi</u>	
Wednesday	Instructors return feedback about the two stories to author	
Monday	Clarification emails are sent by author  Video Conference Suggested	
<b>Week 2</b>		
Friday 5/9/08	3rd Story is handed in by author	
Wednesday 5/14/08	Instructor returns feedback about the 3 <sup>rd</sup> story to author	
Monday 5/19/08	Clarification email is sent by author for the 3 <sup>rd</sup> story	
<b>Week 3</b>		
Friday	Revision of 2 <sup>nd</sup> Story is handed in by author (To Jennifer Knox)	
Wednesday	Instructor returns feedback about the 2 <sup>nd</sup>	

story to author

Monday Clarification email is sent by author for the 2<sup>nd</sup> story

#### **Week 4**

Friday 1<sup>st</sup> story revision turned in by author

Wednesday Instructor returns feedback about the 1<sup>st</sup> story revision to author

Monday Clarifications email is sent by author

#### **Week 5**

Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> Story revision turned in by author

Wednesday Instructor returns feedback about the 3<sup>rd</sup> story revision to author

Monday Clarifications email is sent by author

#### **Week 6**

#### **OFF Week**

Use this week to work on your drafts, schedule conference calls with your instructors and pepper us with additional clarification emails.

## Week 7

Author works final project and turns in by the end of the week

Due Friday\_9/19/2008\_

## Week 8

Final assessment and all three revisions of stories returned to author.

Will be returned by Friday

Final clarifications/conference call scheduled for\_\_9/26/2008\_

### *Final Project:*

Your final project will consist of the revisions of your three stories and must be turned in by the end of the 7<sup>th</sup> week. The three stories should contain changes in the stories. While it may seem like “a bit much” to turn in three revisions by the end of 1 week, you should always be simultaneously working on your rewrites as you receive them.

### *Final assessment:*

Your instructor will return your revisions with an additional final track changed copy of all of your short stories. Summary thoughts on your work, development, suggestions for further study including short story collections and suggestions on where to submit the story will all be included in your final assessment.

A final conference will be scheduled to discuss your progress and wrap up the workshops. If the weekend of the 8<sup>th</sup> week is problematic for the final conference or clarification emails the workshop may extend into week 9.